

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1893.

Widely Shrewsbury Chronicle

From the "Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser" of April 7th, 1894.

April 20, 1894.

To the Members of the Drayton Union Rural Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,—In the discharge of the increasingly onerous duties of medical officer of health of the Drayton Union Rural Sanitary Authority, I now submit to you the annual retrospect of the vital statistics, and of the very numerous sanitary transactions, which have demanded my earnest attention during the past year, with any important or necessary comments thereon, before copies of the report are sent to the Local Government Board and to the three County Councils with which the Drayton Union Rural Sanitary Authority is connected.

The vital statistics and all the necessary details have been derived from the usual sources. The statistics are comprised in the following tables:—

Population:—Census	1801	14,200
"	1871	14,500
"	1881	14,500
"	1891	14,196
Estimated to June 30th, 1893		14,164

The number of Marriages during the last twelve years was:—

Year.	No. of Marriages.	Population.	Marriage rate per 1,000 of the population.
1882	83	14,868	5.58
1883	84	14,857	5.64
1884	85	14,806	5.73
1885	78	14,025	5.56
1886	82	14,014	5.84
1887	103	14,063	7.23
1888	79	14,032	5.62
1889	83	15,090	5.53
1890	94	16,020	5.86
1891	87	14,196	6.12
1892	89	14,190	6.26
1893	95	14,164	6.70

The number of Births registered in 1893 was:—

In the Sub-districts of	Births	Males	Females	Population.	Birth rate per 1,000.
Market Drayton	283	141	142	10,272	27.55
Moreton Say	112	62	50	3,892	28.77
Totals	395	203	192	14,164	27.88

The number of Deaths registered in 1893 was:—

In the Sub-districts of	Deaths	Males	Females	Population.	Death rate per 1,000.
Market Drayton	170	82	88	10,272	16.55
Moreton Say	69	32	37	3,892	17.72
Totals	239	114	125	14,164	16.87

The number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age registered was:—

In the Sub-districts of	Deaths	Males	Females	Population.	Death rate per 1,000.
Market Drayton	33	19	14	10,272	3.21
Moreton Say	17	10	7	3,892	4.36
Totals	50	29	21	14,164	3.52

The number of Deaths of Illegitimate Children under one year of age registered was:—

In the Sub-districts of	Deaths	Males	Females	Population.	Death rate per 1,000.
Market Drayton	5	4	1	10,272	.48
Moreton Say	4	3	1	3,892	1.02
Totals	9	7	2	14,164	.64

The number of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases registered was:—

Zymotic Diseases.	Under 5 years of age.	Over 5 years of age.	Total.	Population.	Zymotic Death rate per 1,000.
Group (Membranous)	1	2	3		
Diphtheria	2	2	4		
Erysipelas	0	1	1		
Infantile	0	3	3		
Morbil (Measles)	0	0	0		
Scarlatina	1	2	3		
Totals	4	8	12	14,164	1.29

The number of Deaths at all ages, as shown by the following table, was:—

In the Sub-districts of	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 60.	60 years and upwards.
Market Drayton	170	33	18	12	5	31	71
Moreton Say	69	17	12	5	12	17	27
Totals	239	50	30	17	17	48	98

BIRTHS.

While there was a small increase in the number of births in both the sub-registration districts in the year 1893 there was at the same time an increased number of deaths, viz., 18, the excess in the number of births being then only 26.

The mortality in the Drayton Union Rural Sanitary District in the several years of the last decade is shown by the following table, viz., in—

1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
222	257	230	224	212	235	228	248	221	230

Of the 51 deaths of children under 5 years of age in the Market Drayton Sub-Registration District in 1893, 33 were deaths of infants under one year of age, and were more than double the number registered in 1892, this high rate of mortality being doubtless the result of much bad dieting and culpable neglect.

Of the deaths of children under 5 years of age in the above-named sub-district, 6 only were due to diseases of the respiratory organs, 6 to zymotic diseases, and 39 to other causes.

The deaths from all causes in that district over 5 years of age were 119, and included 21 from diseases of the respiratory organs, 7 from phthisis, 16 from heart diseases, 6 from zymotic diseases, and 70 from other causes.

Of the 19 deaths of children under 5 years of age in the Moreton Say Sub-Registration District, all except one were under one year of age, and included 2 from bronchitis, 1 from zymotic disease, and 16 from other diseases.

The number of deaths over 5 years of age in the Moreton Say Sub-Registration District was 59, including 16 from diseases of the respiratory organs, 3 from phthisis, 12 from heart disease, none from zymotic disease, and 19 from other causes.

The number of deaths from old age, i.e., "where the cause of death was not traced to any definite disease," was 23 in the Market Drayton Sub-Registration District, and 2 only in the Moreton Say Sub-Registration District, viz., 12 males and 10 females—2 males were respectively 91 and 92 in the first-named district, and the 2 females in the other district were 70 and 80. The average age of the males was 70.16; the average age of the females was 76.16. The average of the combined ages of both was 77.

Needless trouble is given the registrars by adding superfluous or trivial details in the medical certificates of the cause of death, such as "asthenia," "debility," "exhaustion," &c., and when there is any other disease it is incorrect to specify "Old Age" as the cause of death.

The general abstract of mortality for 1893 includes nine deaths in the Union Workhouse.

The increased mortality of 1893 was due to the excessive number of deaths of infants under one year of age in both registration districts of the Drayton Union.

The number of coroners' inquests held owing to deaths from accidents, or violence, was five.

The birth-rate and death-rate of this Sanitary District for the last ten years is shown in the subjoined table:—

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth rate.	Death rate.
1893	14,164	395	239	27.88	16.87
1892	14,196	387	230	27.27	16.24
1891	14,196	387	230	27.27	16.24
1890	15,000	443	248	29.53	16.53
1889	15,000	443	248	29.53	16.53
1888	14,032	387	230	27.57	16.46
1887	14,063	403	230	28.65	16.35
1886	14,014	382	230	27.26	16.41
1885	14,025	378	230	26.95	16.40
1884	14,868	383	230	25.76	15.47

HEART DISEASES.

It is a noteworthy fact that while there was a large decrease in the number of deaths from cardiac diseases in the most populous district of this Union in 1893, there was at the same time a proportionate increase in the mortality from heart disease in the Moreton Say district in that year, viz., in Market Drayton District 29 in 1892—16 only in 1893; and in Moreton Say District 4 in 1892—12 deaths from heart disease in 1893.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year scarlatina continued to be prevalent in the large and populous parish of Hodnet, especially among children attending two schools several miles from the village of Hodnet, and in the two adjoining parishes.

DIPHTHERIA.

In the autumnal months of the past year Diphtheria appeared in Market Drayton township in a very malignant form, four of the five children so affected dying, two of them succumbing to the disease after a few days' illness, the cause of death being most probably noxious effluvia from a house-drain found to be nearly blocked up with sewage, full of decaying vegetable and animal matters.

ENTERIC FEVER.

I am glad to be able to report that there was no deaths from Enteric Fever, a zymotic disease, in either of the fourteen parishes of the Drayton Union during the year 1893. Of three cases only, all were of a mild type.

MEASLES.

There were numerous cases of Measles at Ashley in September, therefore at the request of the school authorities I gave a certificate to enable them to close the school for two, or three, weeks, to prevent the loss of a portion of the Government grant for that time.

SMALL-POX.

In July a stranger visiting Little Drayton in the course of a few days began to suffer in the eruptive stage of Small-pox, and continued under medical treatment and observation for about six weeks, when, on perfect convalescence from the severe attack, he was allowed to return to Yorkshire.

I must here remark that many very promptly-made attempts failed to get admittance for the case into any one of the hospitals for infectious diseases in adjoining sanitary districts, and the Drayton Union Rural Sanitary Authority also made great efforts, which were unsuccessful, to rent, or purchase, a suitable cottage, or building, at a sufficient distance from a public or private road, to properly isolate cases of infectious disease, especially Smallpox, the most infectious of all fevers.

The Sanitary Authority has now provided some hospital tents for erection when required for use in the treatment of infectious diseases, on land obtained, and well situated for the purpose, with a good water supply, &c.

The Sanitary Authorities are to be congratulated on the great success of their efforts to prevent the spreading of Small-pox (so fatal to un-vaccinated persons) in this district by providing a trained male nurse to attend on the case and follow the directions of the medical attendant, and also of the sanitary officials in the use of disinfectants, &c., and in causing the re-vaccination of the inmates of the infected house and of the adjoining houses.

VACCINATION.

The results of Vaccination in 1893 are shown in the following table, viz:—

In the Sub-districts of	Births	Successfully Vaccinated.	Declined Vaccination.	Partially Vaccinated for Medical Certificate.	Removed to another district.	Returned to place of birth.	Not of legal age for vaccination.	Insusceptible.
Market Drayton	283	204	31	5	4	0	38	1
Moreton Say	112	74	12	2	1	1	0	0
Totals	395	278	43	7	5	1	38	1

SANITARY TRANSACTIONS.

Of the aggregate number of 40 Scarlatina cases in the Drayton Union reported to me in 1893, 27 of them were scattered over five of the nine townships of Hodnet parish, the area of which is 9,624 acres, and the population at the last census, 1,687.

In January there were 6 cases of Scarlatina at Cheswardine Marsh. One of the children in the infected house was reported to be attending the parish National School. In the township of Epsley (Hodnet) there was one case of Scarlatina.

March.—In Hodnet village there were 7 cases of the same fever, in one overcrowded house in which there were only two small bedrooms. The Rev. R. H. Cholmondeley, Rector of the parish, most kindly provided a trained nurse for the cases, but the nurse, to obtain the rest she required, was obliged to sleep away from the infected house.

April.—In Moreton Say parish there was one case of Scarlatina; the infection was believed to have been communicated in a first-class railway carriage, in travelling from Liverpool. At Hine Heath, near Peplow, there were three cases of Scarlatina, two of them of a very malignant type, terminating fatally in seven days.

May.—In Hodnet village there were two cases of Scarlatina; and one case in June.

In July I also visited a case of Enteric Fever at Napley Heath, Muckleston. In Little Drayton there was a case of Scarlatina, the infection being brought from Crewe by a mother visiting her daughter there. I visited a case at Stoke Heath of Scarlatina, the young man affected being a farm servant at Picketstock, in the Newport Union, who was sent to Stoke Heath with the Scarlatinal rash out on his body.

August.—In this month there was a mild case of Enteric Fever at Stoke-on-Tern, and one case of Diphtheria in Market Drayton.

September.—There were 2 cases of Scarlatina at Wollerton, and 3 at Marchamley Wood, also in Hodnet parish; the three children had been attending the Pees Lower Heath School, and several other children in Pees parish were stated to have been similarly affected; if so, that school should have been closed for four or more weeks.

October.—I reported a case of Enteric Fever at Napley Heath, like a similar case there in July caused by contaminated water obtained off the premises, the pump at the same farm-house being still out of repair. There was one case of Diphtheria in Market Drayton. In this month there were four cases of Scarlatina at Wollerton, and three at Hopton, and in

November, one case in Cheswardine village and one in Little Drayton. There were also three cases of Diphtheria in Little Drayton.

In December, only two cases of Scarlatina were visited by me—one in Woore village, the other in Little Drayton.

During the past year I have constantly directed the perfect isolation where practicable of all cases of infectious disease, and the careful disinfection of all clothes, bed-linen, carpets, &c., by first putting such articles in a large vessel nearly full of cold water in the patient's room before the removal of them for further disinfection in solution of Chloralum. I again strongly recommend Chloralum as a very effective, not disagreeable, and an economical disinfectant for general use, including the disinfection of furniture. Price of the powder of Chloralum only 12s. 6d. per cwt.

Imperfect disinfection of the clothing of convalescent children who have returned to school is, I believe, the most probable source of the numerous, and often wide-apart cases of Scarlatina otherwise very difficult to account for. I advise the Sanitary Authority to request the managers of elementary schools, where large numbers of children are brought together, to have the walls and ceilings of the schoolrooms well lime-washed in order to remove any germs of disease which children recently convalescent may bring there in their clothes, at the end of each term, or before the next assembling of the scholars.

It would be an improvement in sanitation, and a valuable amendment of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, if all medical practitioners sending notifications of cases of infectious disease to the district medical officers of health were required, not only to certify their opinion of the cases, but, at the same time to sign an extra declaration that they had promptly given all apparently needful instructions to prevent the spreading of the disease to other households before they earn the small fee payable to them for the required certificate. No time would then be lost before the health officer called, or in large sanitary districts where the inspector of nuisances, who often acts as the deputy of the county medical officers, had called to ascertain if the necessary instructions had been given and were promoting the desired object.

If adopted, the proposed amendment would show medical attendants on cases of infectious disease that they need not from courtesy, or from any other motive, refrain from forestalling any directions or advice the Medical Officer of Health, either with, or if inconvenient to them without, that officer and the medical attendant visiting a case together, which is often very desirable.

NUISANCES.

The following were the principal nuisances which demanded my attention during the year last past.

In January, I inspected in the village of Ashley a dwelling-house and the out-buildings which were in a greatly dilapidated state, many feet of the roof and some of the flooring of the house being rotten, and the spouting being worn out; some of the rooms were very damp, and the house drain was impervious. There were collections of stagnant sewage on the premises. The adjoining house with its outbuildings were also in a dilapidated state; both houses and the premises being in a state injurious to health, the landlords were ordered to abate the nuisances by the Sanitary Authority, and did so under much pressure.

In March, there having been many cases of Diarrhoea among the children attending the National School there, I inspected several closets on the premises, and found them to be too small and not properly ventilated, and to this insanitary state I attributed the prevalence of the disease in question, and so reported to the Authority.

In July, I reported that a house in Cheshire Street, Market Drayton, was unfit for human habitation, and after some unsuccessful efforts the Authority caused the occupant to be removed to the Union Workhouse.

In August I visited the house and premises in the occupation of a baker and grocer in the village of Woore, and found the house much out of repair and the roof not waterproof, and the wood-work in some parts of the house very defective, and rotten, and requiring to be propped up in various ways. An untrapped cesspool near the bakehouse window and the house door was also a nuisance. On the same day my attention was directed to nuisances injurious to health caused by a cesspool without a stench-trap within 18 inches of the dwelling-house door, and by a privy opposite to it only six feet distant from the house door.

During the year ended 31st December last, have been required to investigate several cases of overcrowded houses before the Sanitary Inspector summoned the tenants to attend before the local Bench of Justices to answer the charge of not reducing the number of inmates after notice to do so. Several of such cases were successfully dealt with by the Authorities.

Nuisances are often caused in wet weather in the town of Market Drayton by nearly sixty spouts discharging rain water from the roofs of

houses on to the causeways of the streets of the town.

OFFAL BOILING.

By the vigilance of the Inspector, many nuisances caused by the boiling of offal by butchers have been abated.

BYE-LAWS.

Bye-laws for the Drayton Union having long ago been sanctioned by the Local Government Board, any further delay in putting them into operation is inexpedient, and likely to cause continued inconvenience to the Sanitary Officers of the Authority, inasmuch as the members of the District and Parish Councils elected in November next will of course require time and opportunities to gain official experience of the administrative duties devolving upon them.

NUISANCES.

The following details include the record of a very large amount of sanitary work well done by Mr Heywood, the Inspector of Nuisances, Dairies, Lodging Houses, Canal Boats, &c., in the Drayton Union in 1893, viz:—

Twenty canal boats were inspected. The Order of the Local Government Board of March, 1878, sec. 9, had been complied with. There were no cases of sickness in any of the boats.

Two sewers were constructed, and two reconstructed, in the parish of Drayton.

Twenty-four cesspools or manholes and sewers repaired in the parishes of Drayton, Woore, Cheswardine, and Hodnet, and they were cleared out once a month, or oftener if necessary, and re-filled with clean water.

Forty house drains have been repaired or reconstructed, and stench-traps put in the cesspools or manholes, in the parishes of Drayton, Hodnet, Norton-in-Hales, and Woore.

Eight new houses have been erected, viz., two in each of the parishes of Drayton, Hodnet, Norton-in-Hales, and Woore, and all of them have been well supplied with water of good quality, and are well ventilated, and have house drains.

Ten other houses in Drayton parish have had a good supply of wholesome water put into them.

One public draw-well at Ashley cleared out and repaired.

One public draw-well at Ashley Heath cleared out and repaired, and a notice-board put cautioning people against polluting the water of the well.

One draw-well at Cheswardine cleared out, and also a pit near it, at which cattle drink. A new drain also constructed at Cheswardine.

Six houses reported to be overcrowded, viz., 4 at Drayton, 1 at Hodnet, and 1 at Cheswardine.

Four summonses taken out in cases of overcrowding and dealt with in the parish of Drayton by the Magistrates at Petty Sessions.

Forty-three general nuisances at Drayton and Woore without being reported to the Sanitary Authority.

A pit containing much foul sewage cleared out at Norton-in-Hales.

Three Common Lodging Houses lime-washed in April and October. There had been no sickness in them.

A certificate was granted during the year to a person to enable him to keep a Common Lodging House, to take in 20 lodgers.

Butchers' slaughterhouses, cowsheds, dairies, and milk-shops occasionally inspected. One milk certificate granted.

One Small-pox case attended to by order of the Sanitary Authority, and the materials of which the hospital tent is made up aired two days together every fortnight while they are stored up until required for use.

During the summer months schedules are given out to each lodging house keeper to fill in the names of the lodgers taken in at night, shewing where they came from, and where going to next day, and the schedules are delivered the following morning at 9 o'clock to the Inspector of Nuisances.

A large number of Nuisances of all kinds were abated under the direction of the Inspector without reporting them to the Authority.

WATER SUPPLY.

With the valuable co-operation of Mr. William Taylor, a well-known local water expert long much personally interested in the subject, I am now able to make a very favourable response to the recent request of the Local Government Board for information as to the present state of the water supply in the fourteen parishes forming the Drayton Union.

It affords me great satisfaction to be able to state that the Market Drayton Water Company is already supplying about 200 houses in the town of Market Drayton and the immediate vicinity with water, which is of excellent quality. A very competent analyst, after analysing a sample of the water, reports that "it is admirably adapted for the general supply of a community, as it is a soft water, and there is no evidence of any past contamination." "The Water Company wish to point out that on comparison with an analysis of the water of the Royal Well at West Malvern, which has hitherto been considered about the best water in the world, the Market Drayton Company's water compares most favourably."

The townships of Almonington, Bearstone, Betton, Dorrington, Longford, and Sutton are, I am informed, in their respective parishes well supplied with good water.

In addition to the greatly-improved supply of water of good quality to the town of Market Drayton, I am able to report a very considerable improvement in the water supply of the populous township of Little Drayton, by the sinking of many new and deep wells during the last few years. Between 60 and 70 wells, most of them deep, supply the inhabitants with good water. The Drayton Union Workhouse is supplied with abundance of excellent water by a well nearly 100ft. deep.

I have been informed on reliable authority that the following parishes also possess a sufficient water supply of good quality, viz., Cheswardine, Childs Ercall, Hinstock, Moreton Say, Muckleston, Stoke-on-Tern, and Woore.

The parishes of Adderley and Norton-in-Hales, and the township of Tittenley are fairly well supplied with water.

The water supply of Hodnet is good, except to six or seven cottages in that village, which are dependent for their water upon a neighbour's well, which does not always supply the necessary quantity of water for the inmates of the cottages in question.

All landlords should be made aware of the fact that they are under a legal obligation to keep their tenants' pumps and wells in good order, and to have their wells cleared out when necessary, which is seldom oftener than once in twenty or twenty-five years.

Only three cases of Enteric Fever (all of a mild type) having come under my notice in 1893

